

As she continues to steer Broward County's 60 agencies and a budget of nearly \$5 billion, Bertha Henry deserves this award because of the way she has made Broward County a better place to live, to work, to play, and to visit.

Bertha, thank you for your outstanding service, and congratulations on the well-deserved honor.

HERKIMER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT MILLER TURNS AROUND GRADUATION RATES

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Miller, superintendent of the Herkimer Central School District.

When Robert Miller became superintendent of the Herkimer Central School District in 2013, he was facing a problem that many superintendents across this country are facing: a low and decreasing graduation rate.

However, in the 4 years since Mr. Miller began in his new role, Herkimer has seen a drastic turnaround. The graduation rate has increased 11 percent, from 69 to 80 percent.

However, in 2006, Herkimer's graduation rates were at 87 percent. Mr. Miller has made it his mission to ensure that Herkimer Central School District reaches that number again.

Mr. Miller noted that it was the dedication of both teachers and administrators that led to the significant increase. Their ability and willingness to intervene with students at risk has helped these students successfully move to the next stage of their lives with the skills they need to contribute positively to our community.

Thank you to Superintendent Miller and the dedicated staff at Herkimer Central School District for your tremendous work and commitment to our next generation of leaders. I know your effort will continue inspiring our students for years to come.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 728 CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 728.

This troop's longstanding commitment to instilling positive social values and building self-esteem and self-reliance in young men has provided a great benefit to our community.

Opened in 1947, Troop 728 has produced a tradition of excellence. It has been led by many dedicated Scoutmasters over its 70-year history, each of whom has contributed to the legacy of the troop. These passionate,

active leaders allow the memories of past leaders to continue to flourish in the troop's culture today.

Traditions of Troop 728 include Scout breakfasts, hiking, camping trips, and summer camp. Additionally, Scoutmasters focus instilling leadership skills in troop members and developing leaders for the 21st century.

Troop 728 has produced over 30 Eagle Scouts, the most prestigious award that any young man can earn in Scouting. This demonstrates their continued commitment to their long legacy of service throughout the community.

On this special anniversary, I would like to congratulate the leaders and members of Troop 728 for all of their successes.

HALLE THOMPSON LIVES AMONGST THE HEAVENLY HOST

(Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, the image beside me is of a young lady named Halle Thompson, who was tragically killed in a car crash in my district. I penned this letter to her parents:

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, "Ryan, Janna, my own heart is rended as I pen this letter of encouragement and condolence.

"Your beautiful daughter Halle is, no doubt, in the presence of our beloved lady and our loving, forgiving Savior. You are each, no doubt, surrounded by the angels of Christ, as you endeavor each day to endure the grief of your loss, even as you present a strong and determined front to honor the life and spirit of your daughter.

"I have personal insight relative to your pain, having lost my own first-born, my beautiful Daniela, long ago on the 10th day of November 1990.

"I wish to compassionately convey it has come onto my heart that your Halle is present at this moment with my own Daniela, looking upon you both with adoration as you prayerfully honor and respect our Lord's mysterious will.

"Please know that my prayers are with you and that my own quiet service to America and our fellow man is dedicated this day to the beautiful Halle, angelic now, as she lives amongst the Heavenly Host.

"Respectfully, I remain, your humble servant."

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Paper and Packaging Caucus, I rise today to recognize the 57th anniversary of National Forest Products Week.

As an Oregonian, this week takes on special significance for me and my con-

stituents. Oregon is home to over 174 wood products, paper, and packaging manufacturing facilities that make nearly \$11 billion in products annually and contribute over \$2 billion to the State and local economies through wages and compensation.

I would like to recognize and thank the nearly 38,000 hardworking men and women employed by the forest products industry in my State. Your contributions to our State and your local communities are greatly appreciated.

In this country, we are fortunate to have the renewable natural resources and domestic manufacturing to be able to provide Americans with the paper or packaging tissue and wood products that are central to modern life and the modern economy.

I want to thank and congratulate the people and employees in the forest products industry for the valuable role they play in the economy not only in my State and district, but to rural communities across this country.

□ 1200

LET'S WORK ON BIPARTISAN TAX REFORM

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow the Republican majority to trade away creating jobs here in America for doling out massive tax breaks to wealthy corporations that have no intention of investing here in the United States of America. The Republican plan will actually fuel more job outsourcing and move benefits to shareholders and overpaid CEOs, not the workers of our country.

We can't allow Republicans to cut education, cut Medicare, cut Social Security, cut Medicaid, which serve the elderly and the ill. Eighty percent of the tax giveaways in their plan go to the top 1 percent.

Untargeted tax cuts don't create jobs. In fact, when Congress, during the 1980s, passed a tax cut, companies couldn't outsource middle class jobs fast enough. It was a bad deal then, and it is a bad deal now.

Our country can't afford to balloon the deficit by \$1.5 trillion so Wall Street can appease their shareholders a little more and stack the decks against American workers. Tax reform should not result in the outsourcing of our jobs. It should result in investing here in the United States of America, and that begins with real tax reform, not scam tax reform.

COUNTRY BEFORE PARTY AND PATRIOTISM BEFORE POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GAETZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.